



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

MAYOR RANDALL L. WOODFIN

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Dear Community Partners,

I hope this message finds you, your teams, and your families safe and well.

I am writing to provide you with an update on the budget planning process for the City of Birmingham's Fiscal Year 2021 budget. I certainly don't have to explain to you the difficulties ahead of us all. Even as we have had some success in flattening the curve, the human toll of COVID-19 has been devastating. We've lost far too many mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers.

Unfortunately, there is also the stark reality of the horrific financial impact the pandemic has had at the global, national and, yes, local levels. While the picture is only beginning to come into focus, Birmingham's next budget will require drastic cuts across every sector that we fund. We are not yet sure of final numbers, but I feel obligated to let you know as soon as possible that many – if not every – board and agency that we support should brace for a significant reduction of financial support from us.

Entering 2020, our City was riding high. Record economic investment, earth-shaking innovation and unprecedented optimism combined to drive what Birmingham was becoming: a place where everyone could chase their dreams, craft a future for themselves and their families and enjoy amenities that were previously out of our region's reach.

None of that was accomplished alone.

Please know that I understand and appreciate your role in this new brighter and better Birmingham. Like our police officers, firefighters and public works employees who pour everything they've got into strengthening our community, we know what you and your teams' contribution mean to us all. No decision I make will be made lightly and it will absolutely reflect the respect I feel for you.

In no way is it my intention to paint a doomsday scenario or to create panic. However, I feel that it is my responsibility – as Mayor of this City – to provide you with as much information as possible, as soon as possible.

Thank you so very much for all you do for Birmingham, and let's continue to fight for our future, together.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Woodfin
Mayor